

Alpacas Come Of Age

The alpaca industry in Australia turns 21, and you're invited to the party. To celebrate, members are holding a series of exciting and informative events as part of the National Alpaca Week.

Organised by Australian Alpaca Association, these events are an ideal opportunity to celebrate the arrival of alpacas in Australia, and the UN sponsored "International Year of Natural Fibres" which promotes the use of natural, rather than synthetic fibres.

"Since 1988, when the first three alpacas arrived in Australia, the national herd has grown to 100,000. Registered breeders number 2,300, of whom 150 are located in the Hawkesbury & Blue Mountains area" says Chris Taylor, President of the AAA's Hawkesbury/Blue Mountains Region.

"Those first few animals not only cost their importers a very large sum of money, but were also of poor fleece quality compared to the magnificent animals that are being bred today. Australian alpacas are now recognised as some of the best in the world, and this has been due to the efforts of many breeders who have worked hard on the genetic improvement of our national herd."

"In the Hills and Hawkesbury areas, a range of exciting events will happen during National Alpaca Week", says Galston breeder Sue Maynard, Secretary of AAA Hawkesbury/Blue Mountains Region. "Some of the finest alpacas will compete in the Hawkesbury Show, Saturday May 2nd, Hawkesbury Showground, Clarendon. See just how much the industry has progressed over the past two decades." On Sunday, May 3rd, breeders will again be on hand with some of their best alpacas to answer questions about this fascinating industry and its future in Australia.

Additionally, a number of local breeders will be conducting "open days" in the week following the show.

Alpacandes Alpacas - Jeanette and Keith Hollingworth

76 Arcadia Rd, Galston, Tel. 9653 1696

alpacandes@optusnet.com.au Open May 3, 9 and 10

Gunnamatta Stud Alpacas - Sue Maynard and John Hay

16 Mansfield Rd, Galston, Tel. 9653 2277

alpacas@tpg.com.au Open May 9 and 10.

Codan Alpaca Stud - Devlin and Kim Thain

27 Boronia Rd, Glenorie, Tel. 9656 1022

info@codanalpacas.com.au Open May 2 to 10.

Follyfoot Alpacas - Linda Moore

27 Cusack Rd, Oakville, Tel. 0407 469 177

linda@follyfoot.com.au Open May 2 to 10

For further details, visit www.hbmalpaca.com.au and follow the links or tel. Sue Maynard: 02 9653 2277 or alpacas@tpg.com.au.



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INTRODUCING **National Alpaca Week**
AND CELEBRATING THE
UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF NATURAL FIBRES
Saturday 2 - Sunday 10 May



Join alpaca breeders for an open week and get up close and personal with alpacas!

www.alpaca.asn.au

FARMS OPEN 10am-4pm

Alpacandes Alpaca Stud

76 Arcadia Rd Galston

9653 1696 (Open May 3, 9 & 10)

&

Gunnamatta Stud Alpacas

16 Mansfield Rd Galston

9653 2277 (Open May 9 & 10)

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